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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Secretary Clinton Announces the Winners of the Secretary's 2010 International
Women of Courage Award

Secretary Clinton today announced the 10 winners of this year's International Women of Courage (IWOC) award. On March 10, Secretary Clinton will present the awards to the honorees at the Department of State.

The awardees are: Shukria Asil (Afghanistan), Col. Shafiqa Quraishi (Afghanistan), Androula Henriques (Cyprus), Sonia Pierre (Dominican Republic), Shadi Sadr (Iran), Ann Njogu (Kenya), Dr. Lee Ae-ran (Republic of Korea), Jansila Majeed (Sri Lanka), Sister Marie Claude Naddaf (Syria), and Jestina Mukoko (Zimbabwe).

The annual International Women of Courage Award was started in March 2007 to recognize women around the globe who have shown exceptional courage and leadership in advocating for women's rights and advancement. This is the only award within the Department of State that pays tribute to outstanding women leaders worldwide. It recognizes the courage and leadership shown as they struggle for social justice and human rights.

"These ten women have overcome personal adversity, threats, arrest, and assault to dedicate themselves to activism for human rights," said Melanne Verwee, the State Department's first ever Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues. "From striving to give more voice to politically underrepresented women in Afghanistan to documenting human rights abuses in Zimbabwe, these heroic individuals have made it their life's work to increase freedom and equality in the world."

The International Women of Courage Awards will be open to the press. Additional details will be forthcoming.

Award recipients will be in Washington and available for interviews from March 7 – 12. Media contact for scheduling is Ruth Bennett, 202-647-7282 or 202-279-0380 (cell).

Shukria Asil (Afghanistan) - Promoting government responsiveness to the needs of women.

Col. Shafiqa Quraishi (Afghanistan) - Integrating women into the government and police force.

Androula Henriques (Cyprus) - Fighting human trafficking.

Sonia Pierre (Dominican Republic) - Ending discrimination based on country of origin and the human rights abuses of statelessness.

Shadi Sadr (Iran) - Advocating for women's legal rights and an end to execution by stoning.

Ann Njogu (Kenya) - Seeking social transformation and at the forefront of reforms in Kenya.

Dr. Lee Ae-ran (Republic of Korea) - Promoting human rights in North Korea and aiding the refugee community in the Republic of Korea.

Jansila Majeed (Sri Lanka) - Strengthening rights for internally displaced persons.

Sister Marie Claude Naddaf (Syria) - Working for social services for women.

Jestina Mukoko (Zimbabwe) - Documenting human rights abuses.

Biographies of the awardees are available on the website of the Office of Global Women's Issues: <http://www.state.gov/s/gwi/>